

In 1389 a second truce was made, and this was prolonged till the accession of Henry the Fifth opened the second period of the Hundred Years' War. England thus obtained an opportunity, in the latter part of Richard the Second's reign, to recover from her terrible exhaustion and anarchy. She recovered from the exhaustion, but the anarchy continued. The seeds of evil, which the long war had sown, were never eradicated till the time of the Tudors.

Ghent, deserted by England in January '84, made terms at the end of the next year. The city secured the *status quo ante helium*, with all old privileges and liberties, but accepted again the suzerainty of the Earl of Flanders. The Duke of Burgundy had now succeeded to that title. On this basis of mutual recognition of rights, Flanders and its lord prospered for the next hundred years, gradually effaced the traces of the havoc wrought by their quarrel, and built up the power of the House of Burgundy, which, under Charles the Bold, for a while overshadowed all Europe, defied France and Germany together, and perished at the hands of the Swiss on the field of Nancy.

While the war was passing through its latter stages, an important change took place in home politics. Richard the Second, by assuming to himself the direction of the government, drove into opposition all who had during his minority grown accustomed to share in the control of the nation, Lords and Commons alike. The policy, ability, and character of Richard the Second are no fixed and certain quantities. During the twenty years of his public career, he displays alternately strength and weakness, self-sufficiency and dependence, vindictiveness and clemency; now he quells all men by his kingly bearing, now he exhibits that lethargic melancholy into which Shakespeare has correctly pictured him declining when his subjects went over to Bolingbroke. His policy was, in his later years at least, subject to sudden mutations. But between 1382 and 1386 it is on the whole uniform, although his character and ability seem to vary on different occasions. His object in these early years was to be rid of